

**Question for written answer E-003562/2025
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Commission proposal on centrefire ammunition

The Commission's proposed legislation distinguishes between 'large' (≥ 5.6 mm calibre) and 'small' (< 5.6 mm calibre) centrefire bullets for hunting. However, the use of the latter for hunting is very rare in the EU, and thus practically all lead centrefire bullets would be subject to a restriction after a period of 18 months.

The UK Government is proposing a restriction based on a calibre size of above or equal to 6.17 mm, as the use of non-lead alternatives in smaller calibres may require the purchase of a new firearm or re-barrelling, given that current alternatives are either not available or not suitable.

In the EU, even that calibre size would be problematic, as it does not meet the required muzzle energy for large game in some of the Member States. That calibre size also has stabilisation issues and supply problems. In this context, it seems more logical to define the 'large' calibre threshold at 6.5 mm.

In the light of the above:

1. Could the Commission explain why the reasons provided by the UK Government for the exclusion of 'small' calibre bullets are not applicable in the EU?
2. Could the Commission explain whether manufacturers are able to deal with the 18-month transition period, considering that around 10 % of all centrefire bullets used for hunting are non-lead?

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